

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough consideration provided in the present application. Claims 1-11 are currently pending in the instant application. Claims 1-11 have been amended. Claim 1 is independent. Reconsideration of the present application is earnestly solicited.

Priority

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's acknowledgment of the receipt of the corresponding certified copy of the priority document.

Drawings

The drawings have been objected to due to the presence of alleged minor informalities, e.g., FIGs. 1-3 should be labeled with a legend such as Prior Art. This objection is traversed.

Applicants have filed a Drawing Change Approval Request (DCAR) concurrently herewith that addresses the Examiner's requested changes. Accordingly, this objection has been obviated and/or rendered moot. In addition, Applicant will submit formal drawings upon approval of the concurrently submitted DCAR.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as allegedly being indefinite. This rejection is traversed.

In light of the foregoing amendments to the claims, Applicants respectfully submits that this rejection has been obviated and/or rendered moot. However, Applicants respectfully submit that the foregoing amendments have been made to merely clarify the claimed invention for the benefit of the Examiner.

Specifically, the term "expanding curves" has been amended to read -- diffusing curves--, e.g., as shown and described with respect to FIG. 6 of the present application.

Without conceding the propriety of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to timely advance the prosecution of the application, Applicants have incorporated the changes recommended by the Examiner. Applicants submit that the requested changes do not appear to either raise a substantial question of the patentability of the claimed invention nor do they narrow the scope of the claimed invention.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4, 6 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Minoura (U.S. Patent No. 5,146,365). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In light of the foregoing amendments to the claims, Applicants submit that these rejections have been obviated and/or rendered moot. Specifically, Applicants submit that the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest each and every element of the unique combination of elements of the claimed invention of claim 1, including the feature(s) of "a field lens, said field lens being located on an optical path of the reflected beam from the reflective mirror to receive and converge the reflected beams coming out of an outgoing surface. . .and a diffuser, *said diffuser being located on the field lens on the side of the reflective mirror to scatter the beams from the reflective mirror and the multiple internal reflection beams inside the field lens.*"(emphasis added) Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

With respect to claims 6-10, Applicants submit that the diffuser of the claimed invention is copied on the field lens on the side of the reflective mirror by a specific process, e.g., the diffuser and field lens are one element. In contrast, the alleged Fresnel Lens (element 16a) and diffusing layer (element 17) of the Minoura et al. reference are two different elements. The claimed invention achieves a simplified structure with advantageous results heretofore only achieved through a more complex arrangement such as that of Minoura et al.

With respect to claim 2, the Fresnel lens of the claimed invention can eliminate both the first and second type of ghost images described within the specification, e.g., page 4, line 23 and page 5, lines 1-14. In contrast, the

Fresnel Lens of Minoura et al. can ONLY eliminate the first type of ghost image described in the specification, e.g., the ghost image artifact resulting from multiple internal reflections between two surfaces of the Fresnel lens.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Minoura (U.S. Patent No. 5,146,365). Claims 7-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Minoura in view of Langille (U.S. Patent No. 5,837,346). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Since Minoura et al. fails to teach or suggest each and every element of the claimed invention of claim 1, these rejections should be withdrawn. In addition, the claimed invention makes the field lens thinner to eliminate the second type of ghost image in addition to the first type of ghost image.

With respect to claim 5, the Examiner has ignored/dismissed the claimed limitation of the thickness of the Fresnel lens being "smaller than 0.5mm" as an obvious optimization of known parameter in the prior art. However, the Examiner has not identified this parameter in either of the Minoura et al. and/or Langille et al. references. In addition, Applicants have identified a unique, beneficial result of using a Fresnel lens having a thickness of smaller than 0.5mm, i.e., elimination of both the first and the second types of ghost images. Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

Although Applicants are aware of the holding in *In Re Aller*, Applicants respectfully submit that this decision does not excuse the Examiner's burden of showing that one of ordinary skill in the art would have even known that the alleged "optimization" of the lens thickness would have the beneficial results of reducing BOTH the first and the second ghost image artifacts specifically described in the specification. Since the Examiner has not provided any actual evidence that the prior art of record teaches or suggests this feature, this rejection should be withdrawn.

In accordance with the above discussion of the patents relied upon by the Examiner, Applicants respectfully submit that these documents, either in combination together or standing alone, fail to teach or suggest the invention as is set forth by the claims of the instant application.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the claim rejections are respectfully requested. Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that the instant application is in a condition for allowance.

As to the dependent claims, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are allowable due to their dependence upon an allowable independent claim, as well as for additional limitations provided by these claims.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but rather to merely show the state-of-the-art, no further comments are necessary with respect thereto.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the application by this Amendment.

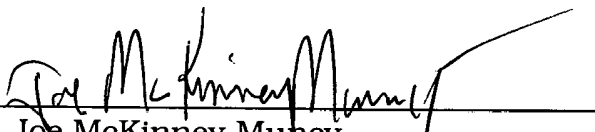
In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Matthew Shanley, Registration No. 47,074 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Version with Markings to Show Changes Made



MARKED-UP VERSION OF AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A rear projection screen without ghost image [artifact] artifacts to reflect and project beams containing an image to a display screen using a reflective mirror, [which comprises] said rear projection screen comprising:

a field lens, [which is] said field lens being located on [the] an optical path of the reflected beam from the reflective mirror to receive and converge the reflected beams coming out of an outgoing surface;

a diffusive plate, [which is] said diffusive plate being located on the optical path of the outgoing beams from the field lens to display the image contained in the beams and to adjust the view angle and gain of the image; and

a diffuser, [which is] said diffuser being located on the field lens on the side of the reflective mirror to scatter the beams from the reflective mirror and the multiple internal reflection beams inside the field lens.

2. (Amended) The rear projection screen [of] according to claim 1, wherein the diffusive plate is further provided with a lenticular lens.

3. (Amended) The rear projection screen [of] according to claim 1, wherein the field lens is a Fresnel lens.

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4. (Amended) The rear projection screen [of] according to claim 3, wherein the thickness of the Fresnel lens is decreased so that the multiple internal reflection beams inside the Fresnel lens coincide with the original beams.

5. (Amended) The rear projection screen [of] according to claim 4, wherein the thickness of the Fresnel lens is smaller than 0.5mm.

6. (Amended) The rear projection screen [of] according to claim 1, wherein the diffuser has a surface with [expanding] diffusing curves.

7. (Amended) The rear projection screen [of] according to claim 6, wherein the surface with [expanding] diffusing curves is made by ejection formation using a mold with [expanding] diffusing curves.

8. (Amended) The rear projection screen [of] according to claim 6, wherein the surface with [expanding] diffusing curves is made by pressing formation.

9. (Amended) The rear projection screen [of] according to claim 6, wherein the surface with [expanding] diffusing curves is made by AB gluing.

10. (Amended) The rear projection screen [of] according to claim 6, wherein the surface with [expanding] diffusing curves is made by UV curing.

11. (Amended) The rear projection screen [of] according to claim 1, wherein the diffuser has a frosted surface.